Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.800
Historic Name:	Cove Burying Ground
Common Name:	
Address:	State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	801; 18-028
Year Constructed:	c 1646
Architect(s):	Emmes, Nathaniel; Gilchrist, James; Grant, William; Lamson, Nathaniel
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Burial Ground
Significance:	Art; Community Planning; Religion; Social History
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (5/12/1999)
Building Materials(s):	

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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NRIND 5/12/99 P1 EAS.800

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
18/028	Orleans		800

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

ss State Highway

Cove Burial Ground

rship: X Public ___Private

oximate Number of Stones 50 graves; 45 stones

lest Death Date 1660

scape Architect

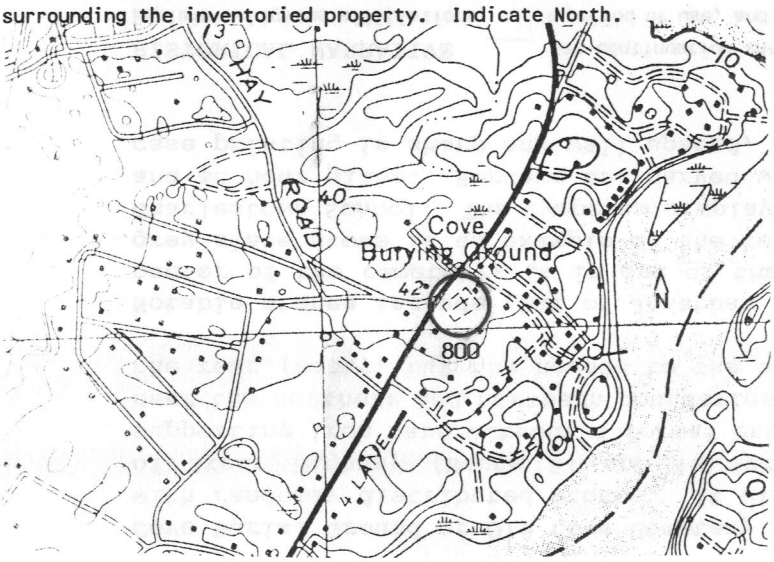
Roll 2 Negative Number 12 and 22

Condition Good

Acreage 1 Acre

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating showing the property's location in relation to geographic features and nearby cross streets. Indicate all buildings or features within and surrounding the inventoried property. Indicate North.



Setting Located in a densely-settled, mixed-use, but largely residential section of Route 6, the major, Cape Cod, inter-community thoroughfare, the former county road and a continuation of the original Old King's Highway.

Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonweal Collaborative

Date: June 1995

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1995
MASS. HIST. COMM.

EAS.800

BURIAL GROUND FORM

Cove Burial Ground
State Highway

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT X See continuation sheet.

Describe landscape features, gravestone material designs, motifs and symbols that are either common or unusual. Note any known carvers.

Cove Burial Ground or Old Cove Cemetery is an open, flat and grassy grave yard with randomly distributed stones. It sits on a low rise from on the east side of State Highway (Route 6) and is surrounded by a fence of granite posts supporting iron bars without a formal entry. Several cedar trees are clustered near the southern and northern boundaries and something of a tree line exists to the rear (east), but the houses to the east and north are clearly visible.

Notable stones include that of Jonathan Sparrow (d. 1706/7). Located near the center of the cemetery, it is one of the two oldest slate makers. The small, grey slate stone is an example of the turn of the eighteenth century, Boston-Charlestown School. The tympanum displays a toothy skull with flourishing wings and an hour glass. Borders are carved with lush fruits and leaves. The upper case printing is sharp and well spaced, but the surname is misspelled.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ___ See continuation sheet.

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

Cove Cemetery is the oldest burial ground in Eastham. It was laid out adjacent to the first meetinghouse in Eastham, built c. 1644. The second Congregational meetinghouse was erected in 1718 on Bridge Road and a new burial ground was laid out there (see Form No. 801). Burials continued here until 1770.

In 1975/76, the Eastham Historical Society and Bicentennial Committee assisted in rehabilitating several stones in the graveyard and conducted a survey of this burial ground and the Bridge Road Cemetery. The results were published as a pamphlet by the Eastham Historical Society.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

EAS.800

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Cove Burial Ground
State Highway

Area Form No. 800

EAS,800

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Cove Burial Ground
State Highway

Area Form No. 800

EAS. 800

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Cove Burial Ground
State Highway

Area Form No. 800

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT (continued)

The Baroque stone of Marcy Freeman (d. 1711) near the northeast border of the graveyard is categorized by Hume and the Nelsons in Epitaph and Icon as one of the finest on the Cape. Also a small, grey slate stone, the small tympanum boasts a richly-winged angel, an early expression of the switch from death head to cherub which became popular in the eighteenth century. The hour glass motif is retained as a reminder of death and time. The central block is occupied by a large heart in high relief and expanded borders alive with festoons and whorled patterns suggesting lush vegetation. Hume and the Nelsons suspect it may be the work of one of three carvers: Nathaniel Lamson of Boston, James Gilchrist of Boston or Nathaniel Emmes.

The stone of Jamima Mulford (d. 1723), in the center of the graveyard is executed by a different carver with a more ornate style than that of the maker of the Sparrow stone. The tympanum has a "light bulb" skull and the boarders are heavily incised with stylized whorls.

Several nineteenth and twentieth-century monuments have been placed by descendants to memorialize early settlers in unmarked graves. A large monument was erected in 1907 for John Doane (d. 1685), one of the settlers of Nauset (Eastham). In 1946, three makers were placed for passengers of the *Mayflower*: Constance Hopkins Snow, Giles Hopkins and Joseph Rogers. A small unreadable fieldstone in the southwest section remains unidentified.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Deyo, Simeon L. ed. History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1620-1890, p. 731 and 733.

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

Hume, Diana, Nelson George, and Nelson, Malcolm, Epitaph and Icon, (Orleans: Parnassus Imprints, 1983), pp. 63-64.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

_____. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.

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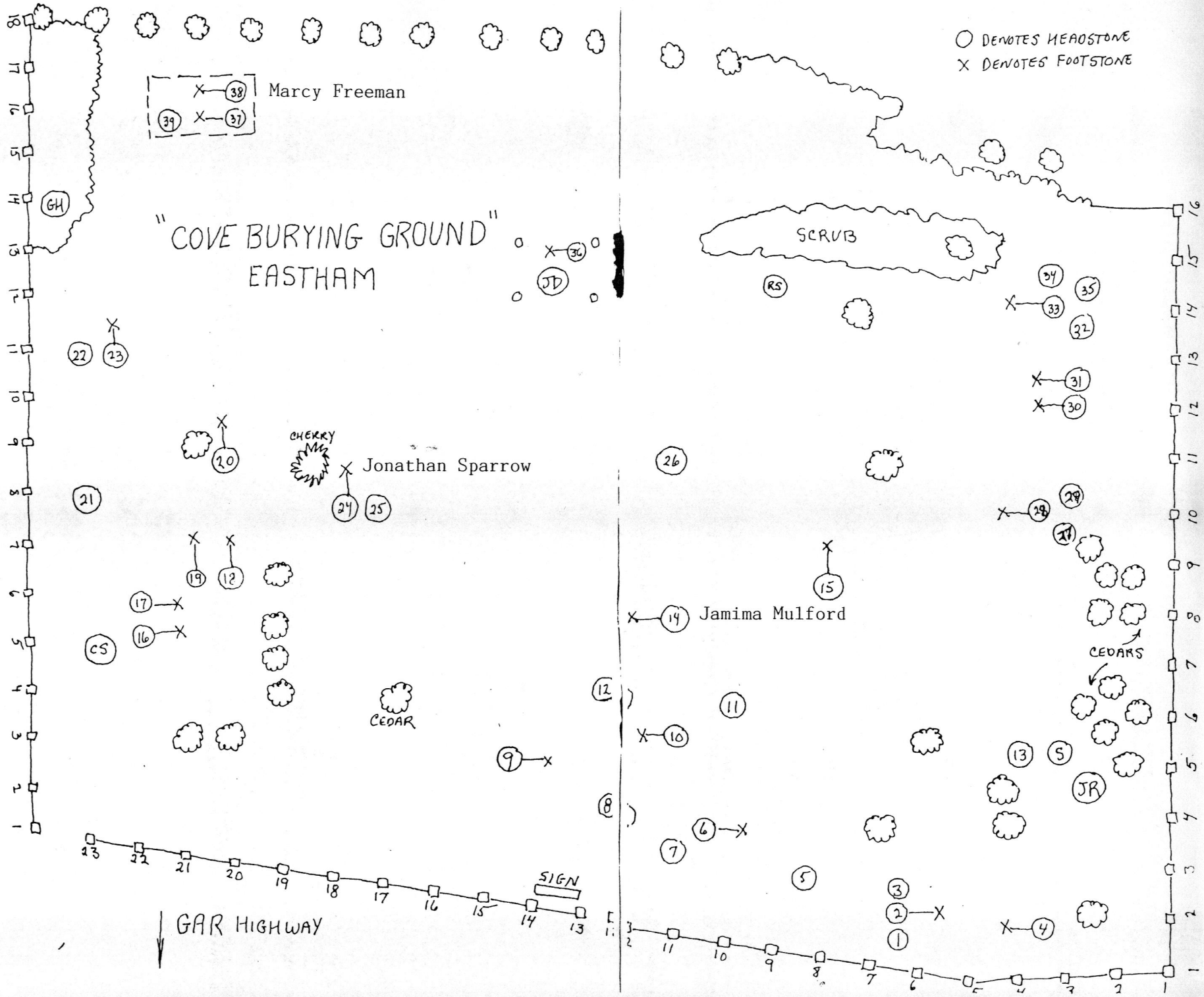

"COVE BURYING GROUND"
EASTHAM
Marcy Freeman
Jonathan Sparrow
Jamima Mulford
CHERRY
CEDAR
CEDARS
SCRUB
SIGN
GAR HIGHWAY
O DENOTES HEADSTONE
X DENOTES FOOTSTONE

EAS.800

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham
Property Address: State Highway
Cove Burial Ground

Area Form No. 800

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

_X_ Individually eligible

___ Eligible only in a historic district

___ Contributing to a potential historic district

___ Potential historic district

Criteria: ___ A _X_ B _X_ C ___ D

Criteria Considerations: _X_ A ___ B _X_ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Cove Burial Ground is significant on a local level and perhaps on a state level with regard to the above-referenced criteria with the designated considerations for its exceptional grave stones by noted carvers and for its associations with several passengers of the Mayflower who were buried here and for the grave of John Doane, one of the founders of Nauset (Eastham).

Form # ~~801~~ 800

EAS.800

FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Religious affiliation None

Owner Town of Eastham

Who has further information about burial ground?

Eastham Historical Society, Inc.

(Address) P.O. Box 8, Eastham, MA 02642

What type information: lot plans X **inscriptions** X **gravestone descriptions** X **other** X

1. Town Eastham

Location U.S. Rt. 6

Name Cove Burying Ground

Condition: Well kept up X **Neglected**
(if neglected, explain how)

Approx. number gravestones 50

Earliest death date 1660

Most recent death date 1770

2. HISTORY OF BURIAL GROUND

This was the first burial ground in Eastham and site of the first Meeting House. Three Mayflower passengers are buried here: Lt. Joseph Rogers, Constance Hopkins Snow and Giles Hopkins.

Arrow heads and stories of Indian ceremonies in this area show it to be potentially quite rich in archaeological remains.

In 1975/6, the Eastham Historical Society and Bicentennial Committee assisted in the rehabilitation of several slate stones in this ground.

There are 50 graves which include 38 original stones, 6 memorial stones, 1 unknown fieldstone and 5 unlocated grave markers.

3. MONUMENTS-Overall condition: upright **fallen (approx. no.)** 45 **inscription legibility**

4. MAP: **Footage from street** 40'

See continuation sheet.

Information on this survey form was taken from a 1976 survey conducted by the Eastham Historical Society, Inc. as printed in their pamphlet.

Name of Recorder Jack Clarke **Organization** Eastham Hist. Com. **Date** 8/25/80

For MHC use: USGS _____ **Form #** 801

2M-1-78

EAS.800

5. INDIVIDUAL STONES

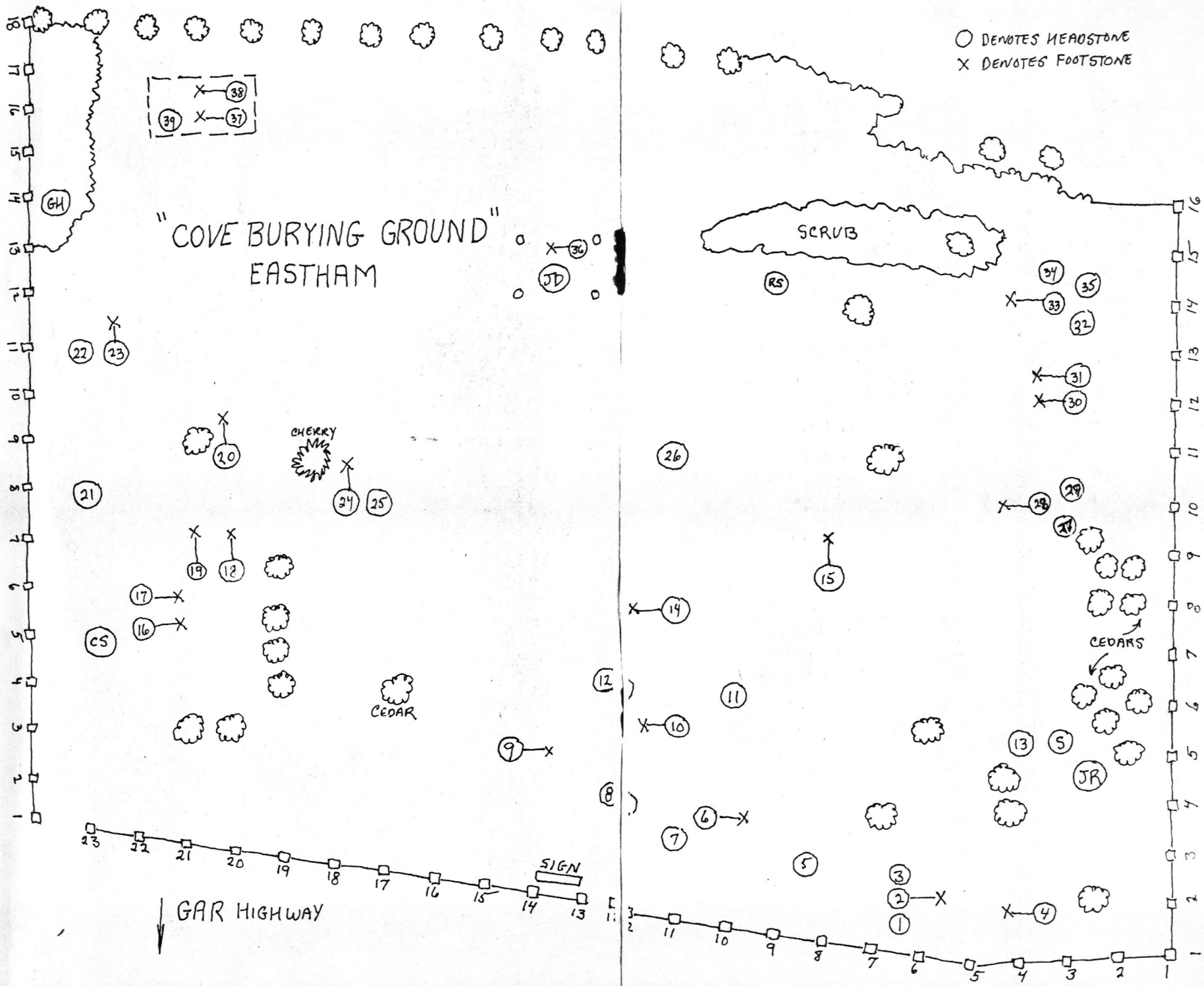
A. Architectural or Sculptural Monuments

Family Name	Date of Monument	Type	Sculptor/Artist	Photo

B. Pre-1830 Stones

Key Words	Status	Last Name	First Name	Sex	Death Date	Age	Stone Shape	Stone Design	Condition	Photo

EAS.800


"COVE BURYING GROUND"
EASTHAM
O DENOTES HEADSTONE
X DENOTES FOOTSTONE
SCRUB
CHERRY
CEDAR
CEDARS
SIGN
GAR HIGHWAY
GH
JD
RS
CS
JR
S

1

3.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham EAS. 800	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burial Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

These numbers correspond to the attached map.

ALPHABETIC LISTING – COVE BURYING GROUND – SURVEY 1976

4 – ATWOOD, BETHIAH, WIFE OF JOSEPH, DIED 2 JANUARY 1752 IN HER 63RD YEAR

SEE NOTE – BANGS, JOSHUA (LIEUT.) DIED 13 JANUARY 1709/10 IN HIS 64TH YEAR

11 – BROWN, GEORGE, OF EASTHAM, DIED 18 JANUARY 175_ IN HIS 51ST YEAR

9 – BROWN, SAMUEL, DIED 3 MAY 1739 IN HIS 48TH YEAR

30 – COBB, MARY, DAUGHTER OF JOSIAH AND HANNAH HARDING DIED _1736/7

16 – COLE, DANIEL DIED 15 JUNE 1736 IN HIS 70TH YEAR

17 – COLE, MERCY, WIFE OF DANIEL, DIED 25 SEPTEMBER 1735 IN HER 63RD YR.

36 – DOANE, DANIEL (DEACON) DIED 20 DECEMBER 1712 IN HIS 76TH YEAR

5 – DOANE, DAVID (DOCTOR) DIED 18 NOVEMBER 1748 IN HIS 74TH YEAR

13 – DOANE, JOSHUA SON OF JOSHUA JR AND BETTY, DIED 22 AUGUST 1743 AGED 3 YEARS, 3 MONTHS

19 – FREEMAN, BARN (FIELD STONE WITHOUT DATE)

39 – FREEMAN, EDMUND (LIEUT) DIED 11 FEBRUARY 1718/19 IN HIS 63RD YEAR

37 – FREEMAN, JOHN (MAJOR) DIED OCTOBER 28TH 1719 IN THE 98TH YEAR OF HIS AGE

1 – FREEMAN, MARY WIDOW OF DEACON SAMUEL, DIED 5 MARCH 1770 AGED 76

38 – FREEMAN, MARCY, WIFE OF MAJOR JOHN AGED 80 YEARS DEC^D SEPT YE 28TH 1711

SEE NOTE – FREEMAN, MERCY DIED 1736

7 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL (CAPTAIN) DIED 30 JANUARY 1742 IN HIS 81ND YEAR

18 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL (DEACON) OF EASTHAM, DIED 20 NOVEMBER 1712 IN HIS 75TH YEAR

3 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL (DEACON) DIED 30 MAY 1751 IN HIS 63RD YEAR

31 – HARDING, EBENEZER, DIED 27 JUNE 1747 IN HIS 35TH YEAR

27 – HEDGE, SAMUEL, DIED 19 MAY 1714 AGED 38 YEARS 2 MONTHS

28 – HEDGE, SAMUEL, SON OF SAMUEL & GRACE, DIED 13 DECEMBER 1709 AGED 5

29 – HEDGE, THANKFUL, DAUGHTER OF SAMUEL & GRACE, DIED 14 APRIL 1713 AGED 13 YEARS 9 MONTHS

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burial Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

8 – HIGGINS, ELIZABETH, WIFE OF ELISHA, DIED DECEMBER 1744 IN HER 63RD YEAR
26 – HIGGINS, THANKFUL, DIED 13 JULY 1712 IN HER 20TH YEAR
6 – KNOWLES, EDWARD (DEACON) DIED 16 NOVEMBER 1740 IN HIS 70TH YEAR
23 – KNOWLES, JOHN (COLONEL) DIED 3 NOV. 1757 IN HIS 85TH YEAR
22 – KNOWLES, MARY, WIFE OF COL. JOHN, DIED 7 NOVEMBER 1745 IN HER 73° YEAR
15 – LEWES, THOMAS DIED 19 MARCH 1718 IN HIS 64TH YEAR
12 – MULFORD, JEMIMA, WIFE OF JOHN, DIED 8 MAY 1723 IN HER 57TH YEAR
10 – MULFORD, JOHN OF EASTHAM, DIED 20 APRIL 1730 IN HIS 59TH YEAR
14 – MULFORD, THOMAS DIED 8 JUNE 1706 AGED ABOUT 66
35 – PAINE, BEN DIED JUNE 1716 (FIELDSTONE)
33 – PAINE, BENJAMIN, DIED 1713 (FIELDSTONE)
34 – PAINE, BENNET, DIED 30 MAY 1716, AGED 45 (FIELDSTONE)
SEE NOTE – REMICK, HANNAH, WIFE OF CHRISTIAN, DIED 7 JULY 1751 IN HER 54TH YEAR
21 – SNOW, HANNAH, WIFE OF SILVANUS, DIED 3 AUGUST 1750 IN HER 37TH YEAR
SEE NOTE – SNOW, JABEZ, DIED 14 OCTOBER 1750 IN HIS 82ND YEAR
25 – SPARROW, HANNAH PRENCE, SECOND WIFE OF CAPT. JONATHAN
SPARROW, PANDORA, WIFE OF RICHARD
SPARROW, REBECCA BANGS, FIRST WIFE OF CAPT. JONATHAN
SPARROW, RICHARD, DIED 8 JANUARY 1660
24 – SPARROW, JONATHAN (CAPTAIN) DIED 21 MARCH 1706/7 AGED 73
* 20 – TREAT, SAMUEL (REV) DIED MARCH 18, 1716/17 IN HIS 69TH YEAR
SEE NOTE – WEBB, BENJAMIN (REV) DIED 21 AUGUST 1746 IN HIS 51ST YEAR
2 – "AGED 35 YEARS, 10 MONTHS

* INSCRIPTION ON BACK OF STONE: (PLACED BEFORE 1905)
ERECTED BY OLIVE, MERCY & LUCIA
SISTERS OF
WILLIAM F. KNOWLES

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

See Notes P. 7.

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6.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burying Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

COVE BURYING GROUND SURVEY OF 1975-76

1 – FREEMAN, MARY 1770
2 – "AGED 35 YRS 10 MONTHS"
3 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL 1751
4 – ATWOOD, BETHIAH 1752
5 – DOANE, DAVID 1748
6 – KNOWLES, EDWARD 1740
7 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL 1751
8 – HIGGINS, ELIZABETH 1744
9 – BROWN, SAMUEL 1739
10 – MULFORD, JOHN 1730
11 – BROWN, GEORGE 175–
12 – MULFORD, JEMIMA 1723
13 – DOANE, JOSUHA 1743
14 – MULFORD, THOMAS 1706
15 – LEWES, THOMAS 1718
16 – COLE, DANIEL 1736
17 – COLE, MERCY 1735
18 – FREEMAN, SAMUEL 1712
19 – FREEMAN, BARN
20 – TREAT, SAMUEL 1716/17
21 – SNOW, HANNAH 1750
22 – KNOWLES, MARY 1745
23 – KNOWLES, JOHN 1757
24 – SPARROW, JONATHAN 1706/7
25 – SPARROW, RICHARD
SPARROW, PANDORA
SPARROW, HANNAH
SPARROW, REBECCA
26 – HIGGINS, THANKFUL 1712
27 – HEDGE, SAMUEL 1714
28 – HEDGE, SAMUEL 1709
29 – HEDGE, THANKFUL 1713
30 – COBB, MARY 1736/7
31 – HARDING, EBENEZER 1747
32 – UNIDENTIFED IN 1976
33 – PAINE, BEN 1716 (FS)
34 – PAINE, BENNET 1716 (FS)
35 – PAINE, BEN 1716 (FS)
36 – DOANE, DANIEL 1712
37 – FREEMAN, JOHN 1719
38 – FREEMAN, MARCY 1711
39 – FREEMAN, EDMUND 1718/19

(CS) – SNOW, CONSTANCE 1605-1677
(GH) – HOPKINS, GILES 1617-1690
(JR) – ROGERS, JOSEPH 1607-1678
(RS) – SMITH, RALPH 1685
(JD) – DOANE, JOHN 1685
(S) – FIELDSTONE UNKNOWN

SURVEY BY MR. STANLEY W. SMITH, EDWARD H. WHORF AND JOHN W. WILLARD IN NOV. 1904 AND MAY 1905 (ALSO SURVEY BY MR. JOSEPH PAINE OF HARWICH IN ABOUT 1876)

SURVEY MADE BY MR. KENELM COLLINS OF EASTHAM IN JAN. 1976

25 – MEMORIAL STONE PLACED IN 1876
(JD) – MEMORIAL PLACED IN 1907
(RS) – MEMORIAL PLACED IN 1946
(CS) (GH) (JR) – MEMORIALS PLACED IN 1966

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burying Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

(CS) — CONSTANCE HOPKINS SNOW, 1605-1677, MAYFLOWER PASSENGER. WIFE OF NICHOLAS SNOW, EASTHAM'S FIRST TOWN CLERK 1646-1662 PLACED BY HER DESCENDANTS 1966

(GH) — GILES HOPKINS, 1607-1690, MAYFLOWER PASSENGER, PLACED BY HIS DESCENDANTS 1966

(JR) — LIEUT. JOSEPH ROGERS 1607-1678, MAYFLOWER PASSENGER COMMISSIONED PLYMOUTH COLONY MILITIA 1647, PLACED BY HIS DESCENDANTS 1966

(JD) — IN MEMORY OF JOHN DOANE, FOUNDER OF THE DOANE FAMILY IN AMERICA, BORN ABOUT 1590 — DIED FEBRUARY 1 1685 CAME TO PLYMOUTH ABOUT 1630 WHERE HE WAS DEACON OF THE CHURCH, DEPUTY TO THE GENERAL COURT, ONE OF THE ASSISTANTS TO THE GOVERNOR, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE LAWS IN 1636, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF EASTHAM IN 1644 DEACON OF THE FIRST CHURCH HERE AND DEPUTY TO THE COURT, ERECTED BY HIS DESCENDANTS 1907

(RS) — TO THE MEMORY OF RALPH SWIFT BORN @ HINGHAM ENGLAND 1610 LEADING FIGURE IN FOUNDING HINGHAM MASSACHUSETTS 1633 REMOVED TO EASTHAM ABOUT 1654 DIED THERE 1685 A PIONEER OF DISTINCTION, ERECTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF RALPH SWIFT JUNE 1946

NOTE:

BY THE SURVEY OF 1976 FIVE RECORDED NAMES OF 1905 SURVEY WERE UNLOCATED HOWEVER THE FIELDSTONE NEXT TO (JR) WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE LOCATED GRAVES, POSSIBLY MERCY FREEMAN 1736. FURTHER A FOOTSTONE JAMES FREEMAN WAS LOCATED IN 1976 ADJACENT TO (2) A BROKEN STONE ONLY RECORDED IN 1905 AS "AGED 35 YEARS, 10 MONTHS" — ASSUME JAMES IS BURIED HERE (BETWEEN 2 FREEMANS, STONE (1) AND (3)) 32 ALSO A FIELDSTONE BUT NOT IDENTIFIED BY 1976 SURVEY

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burying Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

DEATHS BY YEAR – COVE BURYING GROUND

1660 – 25
1706 – 24, 14
1709 – UNLOCATED, 28
1711 – 38
1712 – 36, 18, 26
1713 – 33, 29
1714 – 27
1716 – 35, 34, 20
1718 – 39, 15
1719 – 37
1723 – 12
1730 – 10
1735 – 17
1736 – 30, 16, UNLOCATED
1739 – 9
1740 – 6
1742 – 7
1743 – 13
1744 – 8
1745 – 22
1746 – UNLOCATED
1747 – 31
1748 – 5
1750 – 21, UNLOCATED
1751 – UNLOCATED, 3
1752 – 4
175_ – 11
1757 – 23
1770 – 1

UNLOCATED:
BANGS, JOSUHA 1709/10
FREEMAN, MERCY 1736
REMICK, HANNAH 1751
SNOW, JABEZ 1750
WEBB, BENJAMIN 1746

1ST BURIAL 1660
LAST BURIAL 1770

INSCRIPTION ON STONE 25:

HERE RESTS THE DUST
OF
RICHARD SPARROW
AND HIS WIFE
PANDORA
WHO CAME FROM KENT COUNTY ENGLAND
ABOUT 1633 AND SETTLED IN PLYMOUTH
ABOUT 1650 THEY CAME TO EASTHAM
AND SETTLED NEAR THIS PLACE
WHERE HE DIED JANUARY 8, 1660
HERE ALSO RESTS
JONATHAN SPARROW
ONLY CHILD OF RICHARD
TOGETHER WITH HIS FIRST TWO WIVES
REBECCA BANGS & HANNAH PRINCE
HE SETTLED IN THE PART OF EASTHAM
NOW EAST ORLEANS WHERE
AFTER FILLING MANY OFFICES OF HONOR
AND TRUST IN BOTH CHURCH AND STATE
HE DIED MARCH 21, 1706 AGED 73 YEARS
IN MEMORY OF
THESE EARLY SETTLERS OF OUR COUNTRY
WE THEIR DESCENDENTS HAVE ERECTED
THIS TABLET IN THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF OUR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AD 1876

DATES ON MEMORIAL STONES NOT INCLUDED IN LISTING OF DEATHS

CONSTANCE SNOW 1677
JOSEPH ROGERS 1678
JOHN DOANE 1685
RALPH SWIFT 1685
GILES HOPKINS 1690

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Eastham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Cove Burying Ground	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

It all began in 1964. Fred Jewell, then Curator of the fledgling Historical Society, asked Ken Collins if he would help fix the headstone of a certain Captain Michael Collins in the old Bridge Road Cemetery. (Ken Collins, at the time, was the Society's first President and chief engineer for the BOMARC missile complex at Otis Air Force Base.) Collins said yes, and between the two men, they grappled with the hefty 350-lb. stone (which had split in two), added a little epoxy glue, clamped the pieces together, and waited. Well, it didn't work. A week later, the stone was once again lying broken on the ground.

Ten years passed. Finally, one day in 1974, Howard Quinn suggested to Collins that maybe something ought to be done about the poor condition of gravestones in the Bridge Road Cemetery — perhaps as "a bicentennial project." (Quinn was then a Selectman and President of the Historical Society as well; Collins was now teaching in the Industrial Arts Department at Nauset Regional High School.) Ken agreed to try it, "so long as I don't get shot at," as he put it. In March 1975, he succeeded in restoring the stone of Mehitable Cobb using silicone rubber glue, plus a fiberglas matting coating, and a mixture of Valoil and turpentine as a sealer.

The rest is history. Collins was intrigued with "the challenge" and begain repair work in earnest in the fall. The Bicentennial Commission contributed $100, as did the Non-Resident Taxpayers Association, and the Historical Society added $500 to the restoration project. Today, the town slates $200 a year to refurbish the gravestones — $20 apiece, which breaks down into $19.30 for materials and 70¢ for Ken Collins' labor of love. Further, it all comes with a warranty too. Collins is confident that the repair work will last his lifetime and that of his son. "If anything goes wrong," says Ken, "a Collins will fix it."

The results to date: 10 gravestones repaired in the Old Cove Burying Ground and 45 at Bridge Road. Also, once Ken got enmeshed in the task, his curiosity as to the history behind the two cemeteries led to still something else. In 1975-76, he conducted a survey of the two old burial grounds, which was then published by the Historical Society (and is still available for $1 at the Schoolhouse Museum and the Swift-Daley House). Such a survey had not been done for 70 years, and with close reading touches some of the very real human history of Eastham.

From: Go Eastham Young Man or Eastham or Bust, by Noel Beyle, Innermost House, 1977.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ✓
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EAS.800

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: Date Due: Date Reviewed: 11/1/95

Type: x Individual __District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Cove Burial Ground and Bridge Road Burial Ground Inventory Form: 800 and 803

Address: State Highway and Bridge Road

Requested by: LHC

Action: X Honor __ITC __Grant __R & C __Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review:

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

x Eligible
__ Eligible, also in district
__ Eligible only in district
__ Ineligible
__ More information needed

DISTRICTS

__ Eligible
__ Ineligible
__ More information needed

CRITERIA: x A __B x C __D

LEVEL: x Local __ State __ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Peter Petrisko

The Cove Burial Ground, State Highway, Eastham dates from 1660 and is the oldest burial ground in Eastham which is associated with the First Congregational Church. Included in this burial ground are stones carved by Nathaniel Lamson or possibly James Gilchrist, both from Boston and well-known stone carvers. Buried here are the earliest settlers of Eastham and some passengers of the Mayflower. Burials continued here until 1770. The Bridge Road Burial Ground is associated with the Second Congregational Church with burials dating from 1754 to 1886. Stone carvers identified with some of the stones include H. C. Geyer, William Codner and Lemuel Savery.

Both these burial grounds are eligible for listing under Criterion A because of their early associations with Eastham and the Eastham Congregational Church and Criterion C because of the artistic quality of the stones and their association with notable stone carvers. They also meet Exception D because these burial grounds have graves of persons of transcendent importance to Eastham, their age and their distinctive stone designs and craftsmanship.